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## **CLAIMS**

·Iclaim:

An apparatus for the production of wood composite boards,

comprising:

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- (a) a press having platens for forming the board; and
- (b) means for regulating the temperature of the platens, the regulating

means including:

- (i) means for circulating a heating fluid through the platens,
- (ii) means for detecting the temperature of the heating fluids as it

10 exits the platens; and

(iii) means for responding to the detected temperature for heating the fluid supplied to the platens.

- 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the press is selected from the group consisting of multi-platen press and continuous press.
- 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the heating fluid is selected from the group consisting of heated natural gas, superheated steam, and heated oil.
- 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the heating means comprises/a heat exchanger.

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